

The Cold War Heats Up

China Becomes a Communist Country

- Chinese Communists battled the nationalist government of **Chiang Kai-shek**
- U.S. supported Chiang (sends him \$3 billion in aid), but his government was inefficient and corrupt
- Communists, led by **Mao Zedong**, work to get peasant support
- Mao encouraged peasants to learn to read and helped improve food production.
- Peasants flocked to Red Army and by 1945, communists control north China

Renewed Civil War

- 1944–47, U.S. sent \$2 billion in military aid to Nationalists to oppose communism
- 1949, Nationalists flee to island of **Taiwan**
- Communists establish People's Republic of China in mainland
- U.S. does not recognize Communist Chinese government
- U.S. public was stunned by Communist takeover – containment had failed!
- Conservatives blamed Truman for not sending enough aid



**Mao Zedong –
ruled China
from 1949 –
1976 (the year
he died)**

The Korean War

A Divided Country

- **38th parallel** (38° N latitude) divided Korea which had been a Japanese colony prior to WWII.
- North of 38th parallel surrendered to U.S.S.R.; south to U.S.
- Republic of Korea (South) and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North) were founded in 1948.
- The capital of South Korea was Seoul and Pyongyang becomes the capital of North Korea.
- 1950, North Korea invades South, which starts the **Korean War**
- South Korea calls on UN to stop invasion; Security Council approves
- MacArthur put in command of South Korean, U.S., other forces

The United States Fights in Korea

- North Korea drives south and captures Seoul in 1950
- South Korea calls on the UN for help and the US under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur leads a delegation of 16 countries with some 520,000 troops into battle (90% of the troops were American).
- South Korean troops forced into small defensive zone in Pusan
- MacArthur attacks North Koreans from 2 sides and pushes into north to the Yule River (the border between North Korea and China).
- China responds by sending 300,000 to help North Korea – at some points the Chinese troops outnumbered UN troops 10 to 1.
- The Chinese and North Koreans eventually capture Seoul for a second time.



President Truman and General MacArthur

Phases of the Korean War



- At this point MacArthur suggests to President Truman that the US use atomic weapons against China; Truman rejects request
- The Soviet Union and China had a mutual assistance pact, so war with China would mean war with the Soviet Union.
- UN troops and South Korean troops retake Seoul, advance north to 38th parallel
- MacArthur continues to push for an invasion of China and Truman fires him.
- The American people are outraged with the MacArthur's firing because he was a national hero – a national poll found that 69% of the American public backed MacArthur.
- Congress sets up a congressional committee to investigate the firing and they find that President Truman made the right call

Settling for Stalemate

- In 1951 the Soviet Union suggests a cease-fire
- In 1953 an armistice is signed and Korea remains divided; a demilitarized zone is established
- The Korean War ended in a stalemate.
- American casualties numbered 54,000 and cost \$67 billion dollars.
- Because of the lack of success the American people elected Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1952 election.

